

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 GAC-01 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01

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R 010911 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 169

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: MCAP SW

SUBJECT: RIKSDAG PASSES 1972-74 DEFENSE APPROPRIATION

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 1692, MAY 30, 1972 B) STOCKHOLM 153 JAN 15, 1972

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SUMMARY: SWEDISH RIKSDAG PASSES GOVERNMENT'S 1973-74 FISCAL YEAR DEFENSE APPROPRIATION OF 7,382 MILLION KRONOR (\$1.64 BILLION) WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS REGAINING TRADITIONAL SUPPORT OF LIBERALS AND CENTER (WHO OPPOSED IN 1972 VOTING) BUT WITH MODERATES CONTINUING TO HOLD OUT FOR HIGHER DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. WHILE THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONCERN IN MILITARY AND OTHER CIRCLES OVER "GRADUAL SWEDISH DISARMAMENT" IT APPEARS THAT ONLY MODERATES WILL MAKE DEFENSE SPENDING AN ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER RIKSDAG ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY

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1. DURING LEGISLATIVE SPURT CLOSING ITS SPRING SESSION (WHICH ENDS JUNE 6), RIKSDAG HAS PASSED GOVERNMENT' S PROPOSALS FOR 1973-74 DEFENSE APPROPRIATION OF 7,382 MILLION KRONOR (\$1.64 BILLION), AN INCREASE OF 430 MILLION KRONOR OVER 1972-73. CIVIL DEFENSE GETS ADDITIONAL 137 MILLION. APPROPRIATION IS WITHIN FRAMEWORK SET UP IN LONG- TERM DEFENSE REPORT (REF B) AND CURRENT FIVE- YEAR PLAN (REF A) . WHILE 1973 DEBATE REFLECTED SOME OF LAST YEAR' S CONTROVERSY, APPROPRIATION WAS IN END PASSED BY LARGE MAJORITY INCLUDING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, LIBERALS AND CENTER. MODERATES, IN OPPOSITION, HAD PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE OF 206 MILLION KRONOR.

2. IN THE DEBATE MODERATE SPEAKERS ASSERTED THAT THE INCREASE IN APPROPRIATIONS WAS NOT ENOUGH EVEN TO COVER RISING PRICES AND TALKED ABOUT " CREEPING DISARMAMENT." SPEAKERS ALSO QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT LINE THAT HOPES FOR CONTINUED RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE JUSTIFY HOLDING THE LINE ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. THEY POINTED TO STATEMENTS BY SWEDISH DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATOR ALVA MYRDAL AND TO NEWLY- PUBLISHED SIPRI (STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE) YEAR BOOK TO EFFECT THAT THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO ABATEMENT IN WORLD ARMAMENTS RACT.

3. A COMMUNIST (VPK) SPOKESMAN ARGUED ON OTHER HAND THAT SWEDISH DEFENSE EXPENDITURES WERE TOO HIGH, WERE IN FACT SECOND IN EUROPE ONLY TO SOVIET UNION ON PER CAPITA BASIS (SWEDEN \$143, FRANCE \$118 AND GREAT BRIAIN \$107 ACCORDING TO 1 971-72 STATISTICS SPEAKER CITED).

4. FORMER LIBERAL PARTY LEADER SVEN WEDEN, A LEADING DEFENSE SPOKESMAN IN HIS 25 YEARS IN RIKSDAG, APPEARED IN HIS LAST RIKSDAG DEBATE. WEDEN, WHO IS NOT STANDING IN SEPTEMBER RIKSDAG ELECTIONS, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WATERGATE AFFAIR COULD HAVE DISCONCERTING EFFECTS FOR WESTERN DEMOCRACIES IF IT LED TO A FLARE- UP OF AMERICAN ISOLATIONISM. DEFENSE MINISTER SVEN ANDER- SON LAUDED WEDEN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE DEBATES. IN THE VOTS, HOWEVER, WEDEN DID NOT ENTIRELY TOE LIBERAL PARTY LINE, VOTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS CONVICTIONS FOR SOME MODERATE RESERVATIONS FOR STRONGER DEFENSE.

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5. COMMENT: RIKSDAG DEBATE INCLUDED USUAL REFERENCES TO SWEDEN' S NEUTRALITY, COROLLARY TO WHICH IS A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, " ORGANIZED IN SUCH A WAY THAT AN AGGRESSOR REALIZES THAT

HE WILL BE RESISTED BY A UNIFIED PEOPLE." WHILE 1972 DEFENSE APPROPRIATION PASSED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SUPPORTED ONLY BY VPK, SITUATION IN 1973 REFLECTED AT LEAST PARTIAL RETURN TO TRADITIONAL CONSENSUS AMONG " DEMOCRATIC PARTIES" WHO AGREE THAT SWEDEN MUST MAINTAIN A STRONG DEFENSE BUT WHO HEED THE NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY. NEVERTHELESS THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN IN DEFENSE AND OTHER CIRCLES ABOUT WHAT THEY FEEL TO BE A GRADUAL SWEDISH DISARMAMENT. THIS TREND, IT IS POINTED OUT, WILL BE PRONOUNCED DURING FISCAL YEARS 1974-75 AND 1975-76 WITH A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS SITUATION AT END OF THE DECADE IF THERE IS NO CHANGE IN PRESENT PLANNING. MODERATE REQUEST THIS YEAR FOR ADDITIONAL 206 MILLION KRONOR WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY DRAMATIC INITIATIVE (TOTAL BUDGET IS NEARLY 7.5 BILLION KRONOR), AND IS CONSIDERED BY MANY OBSERVERS RATHER AS A TRADITIONAL MODERATE " OVERBID." EXCEPT FOR MODERATES, DEFENSE POLICY AND CURRENT APPROPRIATION WILL THUS PROBABLY NOT BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN FORTHCOMING RIKSDAG ELECTIONS.

DOZIER

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